A Community Resource for Employment, Education and Enrichment

Spring/Summer 2009

Volume 12 • Issue 1

CareerFocus™

Transfer Student
Rasheeda Augustine

Start Your Bachelor's Degree at WCC

Discover Your Best Career

Don't Make These Student Loan Mistakes

College Living for Less

Transfer Students Save BIG BUCKS

10 Recession-Proof Career Choices

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To advertise in CareerFocus call 734-973-3360.

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CareerFocus is published three times a year by Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-4800.

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CareerFocus Café

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An online resource for students, job-hunters and workers

CareerFocus™

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More Education, Equals Less Unemployment

It's a scary time: The economy is shaky and unemployment is on the rise. The national unemployment rate reached 7.6 percent in January, up from 5 percent a year ago.

Yet, historically the more education workers have, the less likely they will be unemployed. Workers without a high school degree have an unemployment rate of a whopping 12 percent while workers with a bachelor's degree feel far less pain with an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent.

In between those extremes, workers with some college education still felt the pinch with a 6.2 percent unemployment rate, and high school grads limped by with 8 percent unemployment.

Facts AND Finds

Enrollment at community colleges is on the rise. Many colleges around the country saw student enrollment shoot up 10 percent or more in 2008. About 6.5 million students are currently enrolled in credit classes at community colleges—representing about 46 percent of all the undergraduates in the U.S.

Best Job? Depends on Who's Asking

Mathematician. Yup, that's the best job ever. Well, at least for this year according to JobsRated.com. And just for the record, lumberjack is rated the worst. JobsRated scored 200 jobs on five criteria (stress, work environment, physical demands, income and outlook) to determine their ranking.

Now jump over to the *U.S. News* "Best Careers of 2009" (www.usnews.com/sections/business/best-careers/index.html) and mathematician is nowhere on the list.

These jobs too are scored jobs on five criteria (job outlook, job satisfaction, difficulty of training, prestige and pay). Among the *U.S. News* selections are clergy, genetic counselor, hairstylist and urban regional planner.

You'd think with such similar criteria, the lists would look a lot alike. But no, only one career appears in the top 30 of both lists: engineer. None-the-less both Web sites offer useful data about working conditions and salaries in a wide-range of occupations that is sure to be useful to students, job hunters and career changers.

Friending or Working

Social networking sites have definitely gone mainstream. Today 35 percent of all adult Internet users are on sites such as Facebook or My Space according to a May 2008 Pew Research survey. And while most users are online to keep in touch with old friends and make new friends, 28 percent say that they use their online profiles to make business and professional contacts or to promote their work.

People who use social networks for professional purposes often create a business profile separate from their personal site. About half of all social networkers have more than one profile and of those, 19 percent say they do this to keep the personal and professional separate.

Fifty First Jobs

When Daniel Seddequi graduated from the University of Southern California in 2005, he did what everyone does and started looking for a job. Over 40 interviews later and still no luck, he decided to try something different. He discovered that trying new jobs in new places was a perfect way to explore careers and see the country. So a new plan was born to work 50 jobs in 50 weeks in 50 states.

"Whenever I travel, I am intrigued where people live and work," he says on the Web site he created to chronicle his adventures. "Nothing is more appealing than the contrasts. I was unaware of what life was like outside my bubble. I didn't know what kind of career I wanted to take on."

Now midway into his adventures, Seddequi has been interviewed by dozens of newspapers, ABC News, CNN and NPR. He's blogging about his experiences and planning to write a book. He's worked as an archeologist, border patrol agent, farmer and rodeo announcer and has been offered at least ten full-time positions.

He's also learned how to handle rejection, estimating he's heard about 2,000 no's as he's searched for jobs across the country. What will he do when it's over? "Who knows, I've opened up so many opportunities for myself and four months ago I had zero," he told one interviewer.

Find out more about his adventures at www.livingthemap.com **CF**

Work Your Social Network

Find a new job with a little help from your friends' friends

By Esther Hurwitz

It seems like more jobs cuts are announced every day. If you're one of the millions of job seekers suddenly thrown in the pool, you may be sitting at your computer scouring job sites like Monster.com, CareerBuilder.com or craigslist.com; or checking company Web sites for employment opportunities. And guess what, if you're also logged onto Facebook, you're doing something useful by creating a network that could painlessly produce your next dream job.

Social networking sites are the next wave in job-hunting because they provide you with something called "weak links" meaning a broad network of friends and associates. Weak links are actually quite powerful because they expose you to a much wider network than you would have access to on your own.

In other words, while your friends may not know of any new jobs, your friends' friends just might. Here are three sites that can provide moral support as you learn to use your weak links to your greatest advantage.

FACEBOOK

Your friends have friends and jobs too

www.facebook.com

Although Facebook began as a networking site for college students, it's become popular with all ages. Today the fastest growing segment is 35 to 54-year-olds.

It's easy to lose track of time on Facebook trying to remember who's in the third row of the 5th grade class photo your friend posted, or throwing a sheep at your sister, but the site has some very useful job-hunting tools too.

For example, the Jobster Career Network application can show you where your friends work (as long as they've listed it in their profile). Armed with this information, you have an automatic in at companies you might like to work for. You can also add your information to Jobster's Talent Bank and it will help match you with employers you might like to meet.

By using the Facebook Status feature, you can broadcast to all your friends that you're looking for a position. Because people are joining Facebook every day, if you frequently scan your friends' friends' lists you may find long-lost coworkers and neighbors. With over 150 million active users, there's certain to be someone you can connect with.

LINKEDIN

Getting down to business

www.linkedin.com

LinkedIn puts networking into a more business-like setting, but you still rely on making connections.

First, you build a network of existing colleagues and classmates on LinkedIn, then you can either send e-mail directly to others in your network or go through an intermediary who knows both of you. If you don't immediately have contacts, you can join groups like college alumni groups or shared-interest groups to get started. The groups' discussion boards allow you to ask questions, or even inquire about job leads.

Once you've established some connections, you can access the jobs area, where companies spend $195 a month to post positions. You'll have a better chance of scoring an interview if your prospective employer can check your LinkedIn connections.

Basic services are free and are sufficient for most tasks. For example, your home page tells you how many times your profile has been viewed in the past month, and it can also raise your visibility in search engines. The site allows you to enter enough personal information and work history that a former colleague should be able to find you, but it also protects your privacy.

There's a lot to do on this site, but if you're willing to put the time in, you should be able to make some valuable connections.

IDEALIST

Experience at all levels

www.idealist.org

These days every place you go may feel like a "nonprofit," but if you're interested in entering the genuinely nonprofit sector either for work or volunteer experience to boost your resume, check out Idealist.

It's a friendly community of over 706,000 idealistic individuals with all kinds of opportunities to share your passion and knowledge. It works somewhat like both Facebook and LinkedIn—you set up a profile and then join some groups or forums.

In addition if you're an expert on a topic, you can create a separate profile as a speaker or consultant. Have a question about recovering from a layoff or starting your own non-profit? Just ask it on the discussion boards. Looking for ways to meet like-minded locals? Check out the group listings.

The Idealist site also has downloadable podcasts and publications full of advice for securing employment and navigating the nonprofit sector. CF

Career Watch

Good Jobs for Bad Times

Ten recession-proof career choices

By James Militzer

Over two million jobs lost last year. Unemployment edging toward 10 percent. Over 11 million Americans out of work. With numbers like those, it's easy for job seekers to lose hope. But here's a statistic you probably haven't heard: as the economy limped to the end of 2008, there were still roughly 2.8 million job openings across the country. Granted, that represented a 30 percent drop from the previous year. But it shows that work can still be found, no matter how dire the recession. Here are 10 career choices that will help you get (and keep) a job, even in the toughest of times.

1 Get a job that can't be outsourced or automated

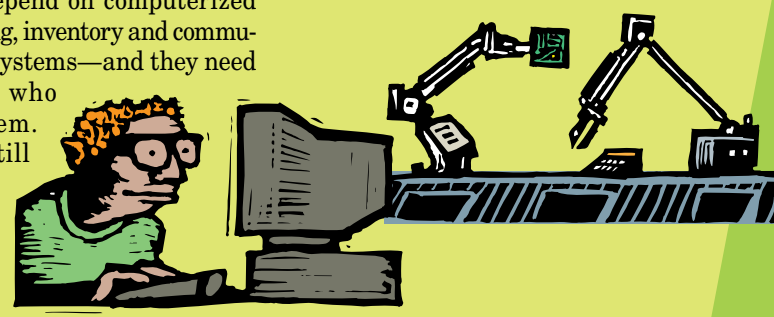
During a typical recession, cost-cutting becomes a high priority for most businesses. During a severe recession, it can become a matter of survival. When the time comes for a company to cut costs, jobs that can be done more cheaply by a machine or foreign worker are likely to be automated or outsourced. To avoid this fate, pursue a career that requires a human touch and/or human intelligence. Consider a job that depends on your empathy and physical presence, like home health aide, medical assistant or mental health counselor. Or focus on work that requires the kind of creativity or big-picture insight that computers can't easily replicate, like personal financial advising or software engineering. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, hard to automate/outsource careers make up almost all of America's 30 fastest-growing occupations. So now is a great time to get into them.

2 Develop trade skills that are always in demand

Some things are inevitable, no matter what the economy's doing. Cars will break down. Sinks will clog. Floorboards will rot. If you can excel at the practical skills needed to maintain people's homes and possessions, you're likely to enjoy a lifetime of employability. And during a recession, demand for these services tends to rise, since repairing a car or roof is cheaper than replacing them. Though a career in the skilled trades may not sound terribly glamorous, the pay is higher than you might expect. The mean annual wage for carpenters is $41,260, while plumbers average $47,350 and electricians earn $48,100—on par with what teachers, interior designers and reporters make.

3 Master the skills of the future

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that information technology will be one of the fastest growing careers of the coming decade. But if you scan a few job postings, you'll see that even non-technical jobs now require computer proficiency. Companies increasingly depend on computerized scheduling, inventory and communications systems—and they need employees who can use them. So if you're still uncomfortable using the Internet or common programs like Microsoft Word, Powerpoint and Excel, take a class in basic computing skills. And if you enjoy technical work, consider getting a degree in information technology. Just two years of study will open the door to plenty of high-paying jobs, in everything from network support to software development.

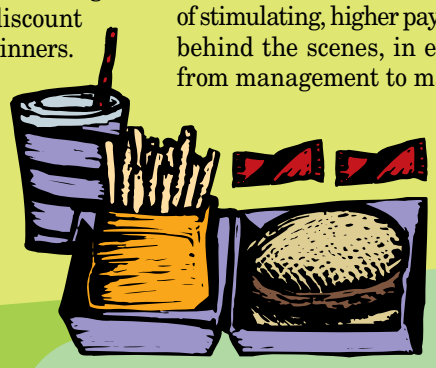


4 Get into a recession-proof field

People get sick and schools stay open, regardless of the economy. So health care and education are among the most stable careers out there. Recent trends also point to increasing demand in both fields. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth in education will be fueled by a growing student population and an increasing retirement rate among older teachers. And as the baby boomer generation ages, their health care needs will also increase. The BLS predicts that in the coming years, nearly half of the 30 fastest growing jobs will be in health services. Many of these jobs, from registered nurse to dental hygienist, only require a two-year degree. So with a relatively small investment of time and money, you can shift to a new career that's likely to need you tomorrow.

5 Focus on industries that grow when the economy shrinks

In October of 2008, with the economy on the verge of collapse, McDonald's enjoyed a 5.3 percent increase in U.S. sales. A month later, Walmart's sales grew by 3.4 percent. The numbers proved an interesting point: For some industries, recessions are good business. Fast food and discount retailers aren't the only winners. Housing foreclosures and bankruptcies produce work for many businesses, from moving companies to law firms. And rising unemployment leads to increased crime rates, so security-related careers are likely to grow. But what if moving sofas or flipping burgers isn't your idea of a dream job? Remember that these industries often generate plenty of stimulating, higher paying work behind the scenes, in everything from management to marketing.

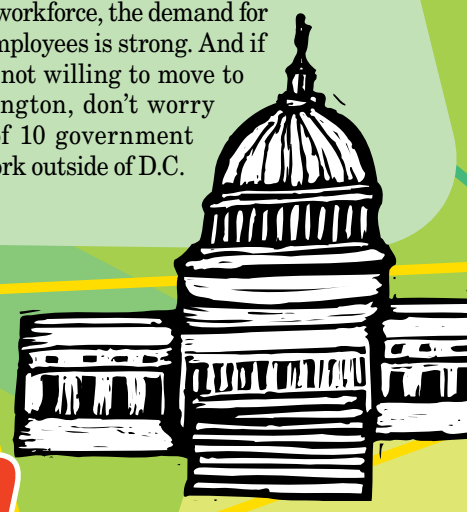


6 Start your own business

Surprisingly, a recession can be the ideal time to become your own boss. As big companies scale back marketing and reduce services, dissatisfied customers become more receptive to smaller (and cheaper) alternatives. And since older companies have larger overhead costs, a lean-and-mean startup can beat their prices and still cut a profit. In a recent *USA Today* article, small business guru Rhonda Abrams noted that over half of the companies in the Dow Jones industrial average got their start during a recession or depression. Strange as it sounds, an economic downturn can be an ideal time to become your own boss. But what if you have no business experience, no funding, and no desire to manage employees or inventory? No problem: In the information age, you can parlay your unique professional experience into a profitable niche business with a very modest investment. For example, let's say you were laid off from a corporate marketing job, spend a few hundred dollars on a Web site and business cards and become a freelance marketing consultant. Take some business classes, carefully assess your target market, and be prepared to work hard. Self-employment could become the most rewarding and lucrative job you've ever had.

7 Choose an employer that will never go out of business

With more than 1.8 million civilian employees, the federal government is America's largest employer. It also provides some of the most stable careers out there. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, government firings and lay-offs happen at just one-quarter the rate of the private sector. And with generous benefits, competitive wages and a vast variety of work available, the government is an attractive employer even in good economic times. Due to increasing retirements among an aging workforce, the demand for new employees is strong. And if you're not willing to move to Washington, don't worry—nine out of 10 government employees work outside of D.C.



8 Take your cue from Washington

The Obama administration brings a new set of national priorities, from alternative energy research to infrastructure repair. A Democratic Congress makes it likely that many of these priorities will be funded in the coming years. This could mean boom times for several industries, from sustainable energy development to medical research and construction. And according to Hugo Sellert, research manager at the employment Web site Monster.com, "When the economy starts going down and unemployment goes up, the government has in place certain automatically triggered functions, such as unemployment benefits and other areas of public assistance that help people in tougher times. So in areas like social services, community nonprofits and other service organizations, hiring might even pick up when the economy goes south."

9 Never stop learning

Education is key to employment—at every stage of your career. Even if you already have a degree and a stable job, developing new skills can help you keep it—and bounce back if you're ever laid off. Focus on learning marketable skills that are useful in a variety of professions. For example, selling is crucial to success in business, so sales and marketing expertise will increase your value to many employers. With the rise of the Internet and information technology, Web design and data management skills will also strengthen your resume. And it's always a good idea to improve your leadership and communication skills. As Peter Manzi, national certified career counselor says, "Become more well-rounded. Develop the ability to lead small groups, to coordinate other people and take control of a project. Learn to understand people and express yourself clearly and professionally." If you do, employers will find you irresistible—in good times and bad.

10 Follow your bliss

Nobody wants to be laid off, but losing an uninspiring job could be the spark you need to create a more satisfying career. If you find yourself facing unemployment, take the opportunity to figure out what you really want to do with the next phase of your life. Do you have a passion you've always wanted to pursue, but have never had the time (or courage) to try? If so, now is the perfect time to make it happen. Instead of applying for the same type of job you just lost, start looking for work you actually want to do. If you don't have the skills or credentials to get hired, consider going back to school or even starting your own business. Once you've aligned your professional goals with your interests, you may experience a surprising phenomenon. Since your job search is now focused on creating the career of your dreams, you'll approach it with real energy and enthusiasm. You'll make more contacts, do more networking, win more interviews, and impress more recruiters. And before long, you'll be back to work—and loving it. CF

Your Bachelor's Degree Begins Here

Washtenaw Community College

With WCC Transfer and University Parallel Programs

By Anita LeBlanc

Thousands of students have discovered that WCC provides the perfect start to a bachelor's degree. The College's Transfer and University Parallel Programs offer the foundation to dozens of bachelor's degree programs and starts students on their path toward careers in fields such as teaching, health care, business and management.

Emily Doud is one student who decided to get her fundamentals at WCC. She is currently a student in WCC's Nursing Transfer program. After receiving her bachelor's in Merchandising Management at Michigan State University she decided to return to college. "I'd got a job after graduating doing displays at a clothing store and found I hated the work. My Dad had graduated from WCC with an associate's degree in nursing and has been working at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital since 1989. He suggested I try nursing," she says.

"I like the smaller classes and more personalized attention I get at WCC."

"I like the smaller classes and more personalized attention I get at WCC. I also like the diversity at WCC's campus. I attend classes with others returning to school, moms and dads, all kinds of people.

"I decided to go to WCC because it's a lot cheaper than going to a university and I've still got loans to pay MSU. It will only take me a year to 18 months to get my bachelor's in nursing after I transfer."

Kristy Bledsoe also got off to a good start at WCC. She currently attends both WCC and Eastern Michigan University as she completes her degree in Technical Communications.

She started taking WCC classes as a student in the Washtenaw Technical Middle College, a charter school on the WCC campus in which students can graduate from high school with an associate's degree.

A class in technical writing with Lisa Veasey, whom Bledsoe considers a mentor, inspired her to pursue a Technical Communications degree at EMU. "I'd always liked poetry, writing, computers and software, and I discovered I had a talent for technical writing. I've got an insatiable desire to learn and with technical writing, I can continue to learn about all kinds of things."

Bledsoe says she benefited by getting her first two years of college education at WCC: "You get so much more one-on-one time than at a university. It's great!" CF

Eleven Easy Ways to Transfer

Whether you're uncertain about your career path or have known your goal forever, WCC's Transfer and University Parallel Programs can help prepare you with a foundation that can take you to a four-year college or university to complete your bachelor's degree. Take a look at WCC's programs and the careers where they can lead!

- **Business**
  Begin your business background and find your way to a career in accounting, economics, finance, management, or some other aspect of business.

- **Communication**
  Do more than just talk about your future; find it in radio production, programming and announcing or advertising, public relations, broadcast journalism or program production.

- **Education**
  Build your bridge to teaching in an elementary, middle or secondary school.

- **Law Enforcement**
  Keep others safe as you work in the law enforcement field as a police officer or in the probation and parole or juvenile criminal justice systems.

- **Exercise Science**
  Learning the ropes can lead you to working in sports medicine or as a physical therapist, fitness manager, worksite wellness coordinator, exercise specialist, clinical exercise physiologist, coach, physical education teacher or in another exercise-related position.

- **Math and Science**
  If you've got a bug for biology, a craving for chemistry, or if computer science or math or physics appeal to you, you may find work as a mathematician, computer software engineer, programmer, support specialist or system administrator; computer scientist or database administrator, statistician, or operations research analyst.

- **Pre-Engineering**
  Consider a career within a multitude of industries: aerospace, agriculture, biomedical, civil, ceramic, chemical, computer hardware, electrical, electronics, environmental, health and safety, industrial, marine, materials, mechanical, mining and geological, nuclear and petroleum.

- **Pre-Medicine**
  Think about a healthy career as a registered nurse, physician or medical researcher.

- **Social Work**
  Help others along the path working in substance abuse recovery, hospice, case or psychiatric or social services.

WCC Faculty

Lynn Rivers
Political Science

A U.S. congresswomen in the classroom

Lynn Rivers brings more than facts to students in her political science classes at WCC and the University of Michigan; they're also privy to stories about her experience as a three-term U.S. Congresswoman.

Rivers' road to Congress was a quirky one. She married at 17 and had two children by the time she was 21. She was 33 when she received her bachelor's degree from U-M in 1987, and began her first steps into the political arena. "My frustration with the Ann Arbor Public School System eventually led to my becoming a school board member."

She was 38 when she graduated with a J.D. from Wayne State University in 1992. Instead of practicing law, she ran for a position in the Michigan House of Representatives where she served for a year. She was then elected to the United States House of Representatives serving from 1995-2003. She earned a reputation as one of the most accessible and responsive officials in Michigan, and one of the ten most frugal members of Congress as she voted against several pay raises, returned the funds to the Treasury and declined perks offered by lobbyist.

Rivers saw teaching as a natural follow-up to her first career. "I'd spent a lot of time educating folks about law and the Constitution (as a politician). Today her approach to teaching differs from when she began in 2003. "I initially taught from a textbook, but discovered that I have better results teaching from the Constitution."

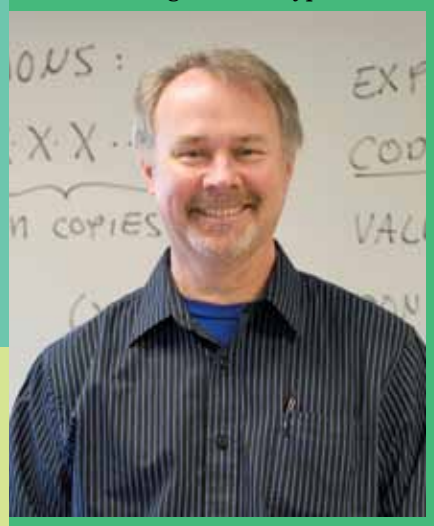
What's the best thing about teaching? "There are students who tell me, 'I didn't really want to take this class, but I really enjoyed it.' They put a spark in my soul." CF

– AL

Mark Batell
Mathematics

Making math fun

Fun math may seem like an oxymoron to many, but in Mark Batell's classroom they go together like 2+2. Postings on Ratemyprofessors.com from his former students include: "OMG. Awesome teacher. Fun, comedic and genius. He made statistics FUN."; "I hate math but this class was fun."



And how does he take the angst out of numbers and formulas? "Some instructors wear a suit and tie, standing at the front of the class, casting their pearls of wisdom before their students. I purposely dress down and try to relate as an equal to my students."

Batell's empathy for those less than thrilled about math comes from first-hand experience: In third grade a stressful math experience resulted in an a ulcer. Nevertheless, he discovered he was "really, really good at math," ultimately earning his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Psychology from Knox College and master's in the same at the University of Michigan where he briefly taught. He's been teaching at WCC since 1981.

He teaches his classes with a liberal dose of humor and a focus on learning the skill and art of understanding processes. "Math isn't about memorization; it's about problem solving. I educate students to be creative, logical thinkers. I don't just care about answers; I care about process." CF

–AL

Lisa Veasey
Technical Communications

The writing way

The challenge Lisa Veasey faced her first week as a technical writer at an accounting software company was a daunting one. "I was given a huge project and asked to provide an estimated timeline and projected number of hours and costs by the end of the week to complete the project. I'd never learned a thing about project planning in college!" she recalls.

Veasey passed that test and continued her career at the company for eight years, eventually serving as a project coordinator, technical trainer and publications manager. Along the way she earned a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Technology from EMU. An invitation to speak to WCC students about her vocation served as a springboard for part-time teaching at the college in 1995. She became a full-time faculty member in 1999.

Veasey discovered technical writing while an undergraduate student at EMU. "I first went into journalism. I enjoyed researching and writing, but I didn't like other aspects of news reporting. A friend suggested I go into technical writing, which turned out to be a much better fit."

These days she endeavors to share with her students the pragmatic skills she culled during her years in the field. "I learned so much working in technical communications that I'm now able to bring to the classroom. I'm able to create a safe and challenging environment for students to explore technical communications."

And yes, project planning and estimating are among the topics Veasey covers. CF

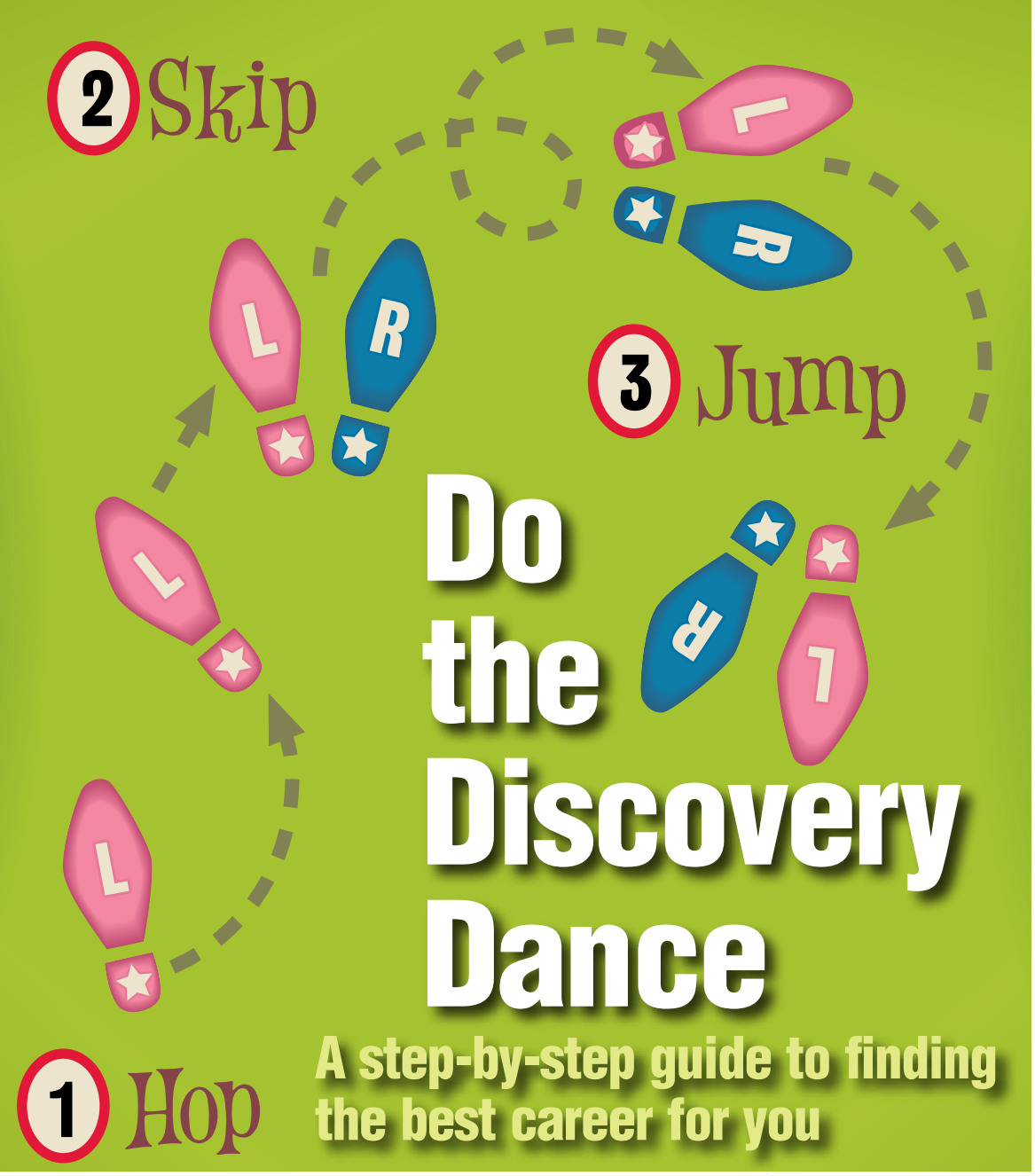
–AL

- **Technical Writing and Journalism**

  Let your work as a reporter, journalist or technical writer tell a story or explain the intricacies of products, systems and procedures.

- **Liberal Arts Transfer**

  Flexibility is the watchword of the future and this program gives you options in a wide range of careers from management to marketing to retail to the arts and academics. CF



Do the Discovery Dance

A step-by-step guide to finding the best career for you

By Amy Whitesall

So what are you going to do with your life?

It's a heavy question, often thick with "...and don't screw it up" undertones. But if you don't know yet, don't worry. You're not alone.

The students crowding the career counselor's office typically fall into one of two categories. Either they're getting pressure from parents to pick a career, or they've realized that the job they (or their parents) always thought they wanted doesn't fit at all.

They're frustrated, anxious and looking for the one-stop answer to their career questions. "Just give me a test and tell me what I'm supposed to do," some say. Well, this is your future, not a fortune cookie. The good news is, there's plenty of help out there if you're willing to follow the steps.

Consider taking a career decision-making class; most are incredibly worthwhile.

STEP 1 — OWN IT

A lot of parents try to control this decision for their kids when they're just entering college, but this is your career, not theirs. It's time to respectfully tell them to step back.

"I sometimes explain it this way," says counselor Diane Trosch who works with students at WCC. "You grow up inside a box. Your family, your school, your religion, your values, your whole world is inside that box. When you go off to college you step outside that box, and conflicts come up. But it doesn't mean you don't respect your parents when you choose something that's outside their box. That's a big struggle for young people."

By the same token, realize that your parents have a big stake in your safety and security, so when you tell them you're going to major in art history, they may be concerned. But you're the one who has to live with the decision.

STEP 2 — GET TO KNOW YOU

You're the world's foremost expert on yourself. Now it's time for some honesty. What kinds of things did you enjoy growing up? Who are your mentors? Why? Do you want a higher-than-average income? Do you like to work with your hands? Understanding yourself is critical to finding a career that fits.

"My advice is to take a variety of classes and try and get some kind of work or internship experience," says Sue Ekberg, an independent career counselor in St. Louis. "Consider taking a career decision-making class (at your college); some people think they're easy A's or B's, but most are incredibly worthwhile."

If you're looking to identify your strengths, Ekberg recommends management and productivity expert Marcus Buckingham's StrengthFinder exam (at www.strengthfinder.com) and his book, *The Truth About You*.

You can also work with a counselor to take advantage of formal assessments such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory. These tests identify personality traits, values, interests, working and learning styles and corresponding careers.

But no matter what tool you use, it's important to take a broad view. A test result that lists "housekeeper" as a potential occupation doesn't make you a maid, though it probably pinpoints your tendency to be organized and keep things in predictable places.

"There's a big world out there," says career management consultant Susan Maltz, coauthor of *A Fork in the Road: A Career Planning Guide for Young Adults*. "There are lots of amazing jobs that most people have no idea about."

STEP 3 — BE FLEXIBLE

Some people find change exciting; others don't even like to think about it. But there's no escape —the work world demands flexibility.

The economy seems to finally be driving home what counselors have been telling students for years. Job security looks different now than it did for your parents or grandparents. It's wrapped around your skills rather than your employer, and that can be both scary and empowering. But every job, major or class has transferable skills that can be applied down the road.

Maltz once counseled a Stanford medical student who realized that he didn't want to be a doctor. Turns out he really loved photography, but he'd never thought to combine the two. Today he's a successful medical photographer.

So take stock of what you like and what you know, and keep your options open.

STEP 4 — BE PATIENT

You still don't have an answer yet? Good, that means you're doing it right.

Even a career planning class won't likely send you out the door with a distinct path, but it should give you a much better understanding of yourself and, hopefully, the skills and motivation to explore.

So once you've got a sense of what's important to you, do some research. Read job descriptions. Check out the U.S. Department of Labor and Economic Growth's Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco/), which has copious descriptions of hundreds of jobs. Start at "A" and work your way through. Do you know what an actuary does?

Shadow someone who does a job you're curious about. Ask them what they like about their work, and what they don't. Volunteer.

"You're in a catch-22 in a way," Ekberg says. "You feel pressure from yourself or the people around you at time in your life when you know the least amount about what it's like to work. People don't want to spend money and feel aimless but developmentally it's a good process to go through, to expose yourself to different classes, teachers and work experiences." CF

Want Answers?

Start with the right questions

By Amy Whitesall

You should never let a piece of paper tell you where your future leads, but there's nothing wrong with letting it hint at a direction for those first steps. Assessments and surveys are great tools to tease out the common threads in your life. They help identify your likes, dislikes, values and interests. They can give you a clearer picture of how you interact with the world and how that can play out in your career.

So what is it you want to know about yourself?

Before you start filling in bubbles or clicking away at random, warm up with our survey of surveys and see where your time's best spent.

I have few career fields in mind but I'm looking for a resource that will tell me:

- ☐ **a)** If I might, by nature, be uncomfortable in a particular field.
- ☐ **b)** How my willingness to take risks compares to people already doing these jobs.
- ☐ **c)** How my impression of a typical day at work compares to the reality in these fields.

I want a career where I can earn a decent living, but:

- ☐ **a)** A comfortable, respectful work environment is a must.
- ☐ **b)** I don't want to be stuck at a desk.
- ☐ **c)** I need to know if I can find a job in my state.

The most important thing for me to know as I start exploring careers is:

- ☐ **a)** What kind of work I'll find emotionally rewarding.
- ☐ **b)** What fields are growing in my state.
- ☐ **c)** Both of the above are equally important to me.

I want to advance in my chosen career someday. How do I find out:

- ☐ **a)** How I might best use my strengths to excel in my field.
- ☐ **b)** If my leadership style is suited to being a successful business owner.
- ☐ **c)** How to prepare for and find more education to advance in my career.

I'd like to know more about my ability to work with others. Which tool can tell me:

- ☐ **a)** What traits determine whether I work better alone or on a team?
- ☐ **b)** If my preference corresponds to a specific career.
- ☐ **c)** Details about careers that fit my working style?

Am I creative or analytical? Structured or a free spirit? I want to find out:

- ☐ **a)** What makes a job a natural fit for me.
- ☐ **b)** Which jobs correspond to the abilities I'm most confident in.
- ☐ **c)** What level of education my chosen field requires.

Answer key

If you most often answered (a):

You're looking for a personality test to tell you how your "soft skills" fit into a work environment. Assessments like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Kiersey Temperament Sorter help you identify the ways you like to gather information, make decisions and deal with the outside world. The MBTI breaks the world into 16 personality types, identifies strengths, weaknesses and careers where your personality type is likely to feel comfortable and fulfilled. Trained counselors interpret Myers-Briggs tests. There's a processing fee, but career centers sometimes pick up the tab.

A free sample version of the Kiersey Temperament Sorter is available online at Kiersey.com The online assessment will assign you one of four temperament types and give you the option to buy more detailed reports for $4.95 to $19.95.

If you most often answered (b):

Try an interest inventory. These tests match your interests with those of people in different professions and give you some concrete professions to explore. The Strong Interest Inventory, Campbell Interest and Skill Survey and the Self Directed Search all fall into this category, each with its own subtle differences. The Strong also takes working, learning and leadership styles into account, though it should be interpreted by someone trained in the test. The CISS plots your interests but also includes a skills segment that measures your confidence in certain job skills. It's available online at www.pearsonassessments.com/ciss.aspx for an $18 processing fee. The SDS (www.self-directed-search.com/browser.html) matches careers and college majors with your interests and abilities and gives you a report for $5 to $10.

If you most often answered c):

You want it all, and you want it now. Fortunately the Internet has several career portals that combine assessment tests, detailed occupation profiles and employment outlooks, career path planning and college information. Some require a subscription, but most college career centers subscribe to at least one. Popular sites include CareerCruising.com, Discover (www.act.org/discover) and MyRoad (myroad.collegeboard.com). There's loads of information—if you've got the discipline to use it. If you already have some career ideas you want to explore, a career portal can help you round out what you know and figure out your next steps. Likewise, if you haven't got a clue, these sites make it easy to get started. **CF**

Not Rich, Just Smart

Transfer students get the same education and spend a lot less

By Laura Lyjak Crawford

Nationally about 41 percent of all students get their education at community colleges. While starting at WCC has always been a smart move, in today's uncertain economy, it makes even more sense.

Consider this: Tuition at WCC is $2,100 a year for 30 credit hours. That same credit load would cost $8,069 at Eastern Michigan University, $9,330 at Michigan State University, $11,037 at the University of Michigan and about $28,000 at a private institution such as Kalamazoo College.

That means if you spend two years at WCC and transfer to a four-year university for the rest of your education, you can expect to save anywhere from $11,938 to $51,800. Wow.

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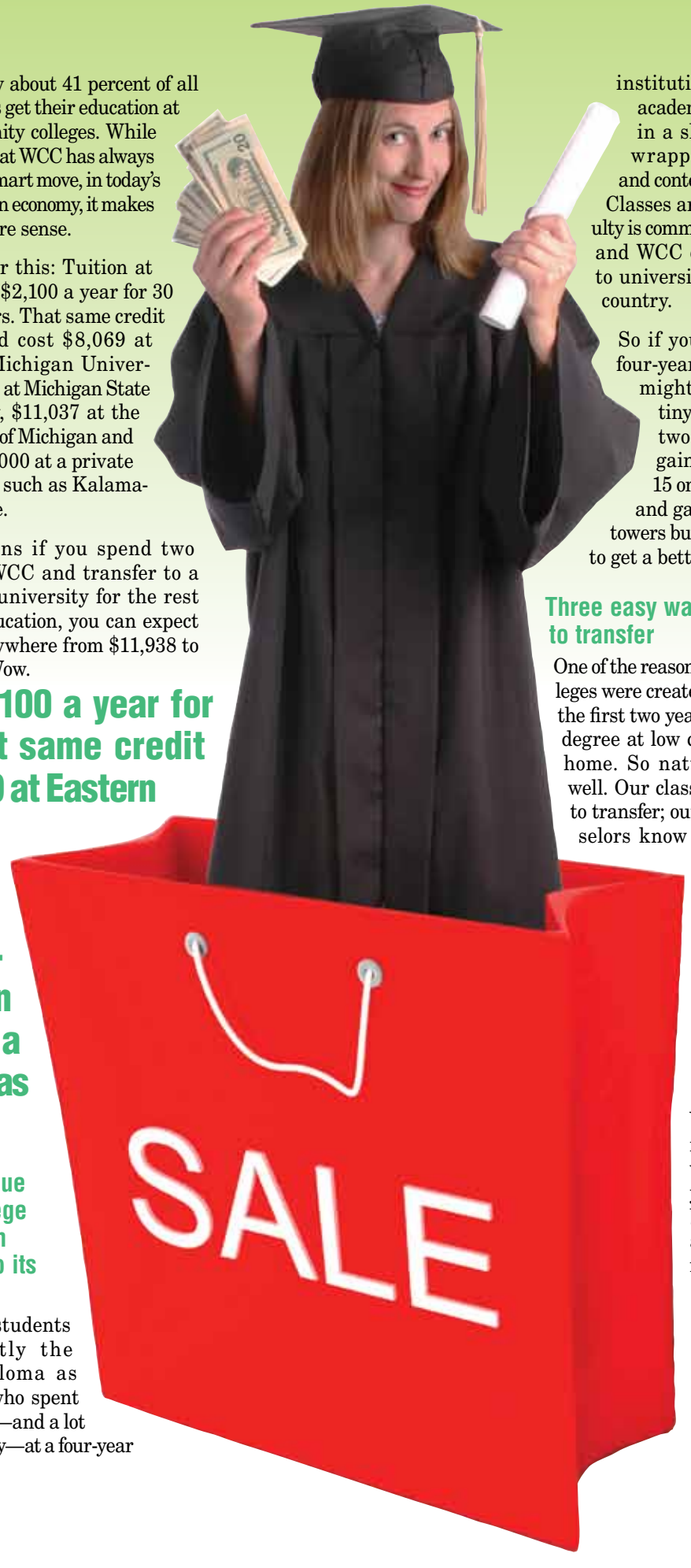

Is the value of a college education related to its cost?

Transfer students get exactly the same diploma as students who spent four years—and a lot more money—at a four-year institution. While WCC academic courses come in a slightly different wrapper, the quality and content are top-notch. Classes are small, the faculty is committed to teaching, and WCC credits transfer to universities all over the country.

So if you start out at a four-year university, you might get to share a tiny dorm room with two other students, gain your freshman 15 on dining hall food and gaze at a few ivory towers but you're not going to get a better education.

Three easy ways to transfer

One of the reasons community colleges were created was to provide the first two years of a four-year degree at low cost and close to home. So naturally we do it well. Our classes are designed to transfer; our academic counselors know where the best four-year programs are; and our instructors will inspire you to do your best.

What if I don't have a plan—or a major?

You're certainly not alone if you want to explore your interests before you declare a major. According to the Web site MyMajors.com, as many as 80 percent of incoming freshman haven't settled on a program of study yet.

WCC Director of Support Services John Rinke recommends all students take time to meet with a counselor, "We have assessments available to help students understand their interests and talents. These will guide them in their choices of classes and possibly help choose a transfer institution too. It's a good idea to develop an educational plan in the beginning and reassess it once a semester," he explains.

WCC's Liberal Arts Transfer program is a good option for students who want to explore their interests before committing to a major. It's designed to provide a broad foundation in the humanities and social sciences, allowing you to choose from a menu of courses in art, science, language and music among others.

Undecided students might want to take a look at the MACRAO agreement among Michigan colleges (see glossary). MACRAO identifies all the general education classes that transfer to Michigan colleges. But when you're ready for specifics, it's a wise move to contact the four-year school you want to attend for their transfer guide—or find it on WCC's Web site.

Smart transfer students know that not every class transfers to every institution. For example, graphic design classes may earn you credit if you go to art school but not if you transfer into a pre-med program. That's why it's important to work with an academic counselor to create a plan—and to adapt it if you change your mind.

What if I know exactly what I want?

What if you've always dreamed of being a Wolverine or a Spartan but your grades didn't make the cut? What if your parents just can't pay for the private liberal arts college you set your sights on? With WCC's help you can still get there. By raising your GPA and saving money,

you can still earn your bachelor's degree from your dream school —and probably discover that the community college in your backyard has some good things going for it too.

WCC Dean of Admissions and Student Life Arnett Chisholm has spent many years advising students who planned to transfer to U-M. "Sometimes they didn't get into Michigan out of high school and decided to improve their GPA at WCC and try again," he says. But more often students chose transfer to save a buck. "I'd say about 80 percent of the students I worked with knew they'd do well at Michigan but came to WCC to save some money."

Of course there are other colleges too. WCC has created dozens of articulation agreements with four-year schools that make it easy for students to complete basics at WCC and add higher-level courses at a transfer institution. Recently WCC and Eastern Michigan University created a matriculation agreement, which allows students to create a plan of study that will take them seamlessly from WCC to EMU in any field of study.

What if I want to get an associate's degree now but still want a bachelor's degree later?

Students who decide to train for an occupation at WCC often can turn their associate's degree into a bachelor's degree by transferring to a four-year college.

EMU is one popular transfer choice for WCC students. Programs like EMU's Technology Management make the transition easy. It was designed specifically for students with associate's degrees in areas as diverse as automotive mechanics and computer security systems.

"Technology Management is a 3+1 program, which means students can take up to 94 credits at WCC for transfer. That's a real innovation in higher education," says Pam Becker assistant professor and program coordinator for the EMU program. In other words, three years of classes at WCC and one year of classes at EMU equals a bachelor's degree in Technology Management.

"We have about an 89 percent graduation rate in the program and the average GPA of WCC transfer students is 3.14," she adds.

"Most of our students are already employed full time in their profession," says Becker. "They realize if they want to move up in the organization or increase their pay, they need a bachelor's degree." CF

A Transfer Glossary

2+2
The typical transfer plan in which a student completes two years of general education credit at a community college and transfers to a four-year institution for the final two years of a bachelor's degree

3+1
An innovative transfer plan in which students earn an associate's degree plus an additional 30 credits at a community college and transfer to a four-year institution for the final 30 credits of their bachelor's degree.

Articulation agreement
A detailed agreement between a community college and a four-year institution that spells out exactly what students need to transfer credit in specific program. WCC currently has 55 of these agreements with colleges and universities.

Associate's degree
A two-year degree generally earned at a community college. Some associate degrees are specifically designed to act as the foundation for transfer to four-year bachelor's degree programs and others are primarily intended to prepare students for an occupation.

Certificate
A degree focused on training for a specific occupation, generally taking less than two years or 60 credits to complete. WCC offers certificates in programs ranging from accounting to welding.

Gen ed (general education)
Academic courses in writing, math, the liberal arts and sciences that form the foundation of most bachelor's degree programs. Generally available and required at both two-year and four-year institutions.

MACRAO (Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers)
This agreement among Michigan colleges and universities ensure that general education credits from community colleges are accepted at participating four-year institutions. Most Michigan colleges participate in MACRAO - but not all. The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Michigan State University are two notable exceptions—both require students to follow specific transfer guides. See www.macrao.org

Matriculation agreement
A specific agreement between a two-year and four-year institution, in which a custom-designed transfer agreement for a specific program is created by a student along with counselors at both institution.

Occupational program
An associate degree program at a community college in which students receive training for specific occupations. Examples include registered nursing, graphic design and HVAC.

Transfer
To earn credits at one higher ed institution that applies toward graduation at another. Credits can be transferred among both two-year and four-year institutions. The majority of community colleges have numerous programs intended to provide the first two years of programs, which can be transferred to four-year institutions toward a bachelor's degree.

Transfer guide
Guides developed by four-year institutions that detail the classes that will transfer from other colleges and apply toward graduation in specific programs. CF

Find Transfer Information at www.wccnet.edu

MACRAO - See the guidelines for transferring general ed credit to many Michigan universities
www.wccnet.edu/studentservices/otherservices/transferresources/macrao.php

Transfer Guides - See the specific guidelines for transferring credit from WCC to many local universities
www.wccnet.edu/studentservices/otherservices/transferresources/courseforcourse.php

Articulation Agreements - See the agreements with local universities for dozens of transferable programs
www.wccnet.edu/departments/curriculum/articulation.php?levelone=colleges CF

Feature

I Owe HOW Much?

Don't make these student loan mistakes

By Laura Lyjak Crawford

Today about 60 percent of college students borrow money for their education and on average they'll owe about $22,000 when they're done.

That's a significant amount of money, but for most students it's what financial folks call good debt—an investment in a brighter future and higher earning potential. Because college graduates will earn about $1 million more than high school graduates over their lifetime, borrowing for college is generally a wise investment.

Yet, there are plenty of stories of graduates who have borrowed themselves into a corner. Their monthly payments are painfully high and they wish they'd borrowed less. By following some common sense guidelines, you can take advantage of student loans without letting them take advantage of you.

1. DON'T overestimate what your income will be when you graduate

While earning a college degree will increase your earning power, incomes vary widely by occupation. For example, nurses and engineers can expect starting salaries over $50,000 a year, but English majors and teachers will likely earn around $35,000 to start out.

Be realistic about your future income and be realistic about your living expenses. Not only will you have to pay back your loans, you'll need a place to live, food to eat, transportation and a little money for fun. As a guideline, your student loan payment should be no more than 15 percent of your take-home pay.

David Flores, a financial counselor with GreenPath Debt Solutions in Lansing, Mich. works with many people experiencing financial difficulty. He says, "Clients with student loans have been surprised by the monthly payments on $10,000, $20,000 or $30,000. If they don't get the six-figure salary they anticipated, they discover they can't afford the payments."

2. DON'T assume that the more expensive your education, the more you'll earn

While a big name university might give you a foot in the door and impress your coworkers, over the long run your career choice and your work record will be a better indicator of your salary.

A widely-reported 1999 study found that bright, motivated students who went to "average" colleges tended to make nearly identical salaries to those who graduated from selective—and expensive—colleges. Economist Alan B. Krueger, coauthor of the study told *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "It's not the school that has the magic touch; it's the students."

Students who choose expensive colleges also tend to take out more student loans. A 2005 Department of Education survey found that about 45 percent of students at public four-year schools took out loans averaging $5,600 a year. While 56 percent of private college students took out loans averaging $6,900 a year. Those number drop considerable for two-year public colleges where only 12 percent took out student loans averaging $3,600 a year.

Remember, if you're borrowing 15 percent of your future earnings for student loans now, you're going to qualify for less when you want to borrow for a car or a home. And most banks will only lend up to 40 percent of your income for all debt, says Flores.

3. DON'T drop out

If you borrow money for a degree that you don't complete, you get the double whammy—more debt and less income. A 2005 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey found that about 20 percent of students with loans dropped out of college.

"It's in your best interest to complete your degree," says Flora Boles of the Michigan Guarantee Agency, a state agency that insures student loans. "So talk to your professor if you're struggling in a class, and use all the resources available to help you. Your college wants to help you succeed because it's a win-win for everyone when you graduate."

Boles, who provides services and information to college student loan programs, says that even when students need to work to make ends meet, education should remain their first priority. "It's an investment in your future," she says. Don't burn yourself out. It's better to work less or take fewer classes if you're stressed.

4. DON'T drag it out

Six years of college is going to cost more than four. "So don't waste money trying out courses that won't count toward your degree," advises Boles.

While there are limits to how much students can borrow through federal student loans, it's possible to rack up a lot of debt. For example, freshmen are limited to $5,500 a year but undergraduates can rack up to $31,000 before they reach their lifetime loan limit and graduate and professional students are allowed to borrow well into the six figures.

Flores adds a caution: Don't borrow more than you need, just because you can. Tuition and living expenses, yes; iPods and nightlife, no. "I've noticed students borrowing for unnecessary extras, and forgetting that they will have to pay that back one day."

Melanie, a teacher from Bakersfield Calif., who took decades to complete her degree and accumulated $50,000 in student loans had this comment to make at the Web site, Project on Student Debt. "I understand that doctors and lawyers sometimes come out of school owing a grand amount like this but they have a killer earning potential. I do not. I only wish that my loan amount was equal to my education and earning potential." CF

More Student Loan Information Online

How to plan careers and college finance
mappingyourfuture.org

How to estimate college costs
www.salliemae.com/content/landing/planner/eip.html

How to borrow wisely
www.projectonstudentdebt.org

How to calculate student debt to Income
www.finaid.org/calculators/undergradadvisor.phtml CF

College Living for Less

Frugal is the new smart

By Anita LeBlanc

College can challenge your budget. Many students discover that even with Mom and Dad helping out and financial aid coming in, it's still not easy to make ends meet. Not only is there tuition to pay, books and supplies cost money too. Still, you have to eat, wear clothes and have a bed to sleep in. And with all your effort going into your studies there's little time to work and make a buck.

You know you're making sacrifices now so that you can have a good life later. Ask a dozen graduates about their college days and you'll hear a dozen variations of, "Sure I was poor, but it was the happiest time of my life." Frugal living needn't mean gut-wrenching poverty; these strategies can help you live with penny-pinching pizzazz.

Ask a dozen graduates about their college days and you'll hear a dozen variations of, "Sure I was poor, but it was the happiest time of my life." Frugal living needn't mean gut-wrenching poverty.

The book budget bite

Textbook purchases can take a big bite out of the student budget. Before buying, consider borrowing, trading or bartering. Ask friends or place an online request—you may get lucky.

Used books, of course, are the cheapest option. Check bookstores or Campusbooks.com, Amazon.com/textbooks and Bookfinder.com. Compare prices at ISBN.nu to get the most bang for your book buck. Or consider renting - at Skoobit.com, you can find textbook rentals for $10.99 a month with free shipping.

There's no place like home

What's more exciting than having your own crib without rules and regulations? How about free housing, meals and laundry? According to "Trends in College Pricing 2008," at CollegeBoard.com, "Students nationally pay an average of about $8,000 in room and board if they live on campus, or in equivalent housing and food costs if they do not."

Jeff Yeager, author of *The Ultimate Cheapskate's Road Map to True Riches* recalls a time when students commonly lived with their parents. "Now they return home after graduating, saddled with debt," he says.

If living at home isn't possible, it's a good idea to keep family ties tight, not only for emotional support, but laundry and the occasional free meal.

Eat well for less

Why be cheap, fast and easy when you can be rich, healthy and satisfied? Don't waste funds on bad-for-you-and-your-budget fast food forays and take-out. Keep fruit and snacks on-hand and brown bag meals. Cut out bottled water—it costs as much as 10,000 times more than tap water—and you'll boost your budget and reduce your carbon footprint. Coffee from home instead of a daily $3.50 tall white chocolate mocha will leave $100 in your pocket each month.

Yeager has some advice on eating frugally too. He peruses grocery store sales papers on Sunday and shops on Monday "just for the specials." He shies away from anything that costs more than a dollar a pound, filling his cart with whole grains, rice, legumes, pasta, milk and eggs. ("Dried beans are cheaper than canned—don't tell me you don't have time to soak them overnight!") He buys chicken legs and thighs on sale and uses them as meal accents, investing in spices to create international cuisine. Make a list before shopping and buy ingredients rather than ready-to-eat foods and discover your best meal-making friends—crock-pot, rice cooker and wok.

Smart shopping

Thrift stores are mainstays for the budget conscious. "Gently used" (sometimes new and brand name!) Clothing, accessories, furniture and housewares are available at your local Salvation Army, Goodwill and thrift shop.

You and your friends can get new looks for nothing by cleaning closets and exchanging unwanted clothes, shoes, accessories and cosmetics.

Remember the thrill of finding a dollar on the street? Craigslist.com "Free Stuff" postings offering clothes, music, appliances and more are equally exhilarating.

Make yourself a member of Freecycle.org to exchange items you no longer need for those you do.

Fabulous frugal fun

Regular nightclub and restaurant attendance is the path to Poorville. Why go broke when a little creativity can save dollars without sacrificing good times?

Get free movies, music, video games, books and magazines from campus and public libraries and say good-bye to costly rentals and purchases. Look for online, no-cost, copyright-free music, movie and software downloads.

Can't resist a movie venue? See free movies on campus or go to budget matinees. Consider campus-based events, such as music recitals or plays for free or at a reduced rate. Check free newspapers for coupons and student discounts.

Instead of going to restaurants, organize potluck dinners with your friends. Even the most kitchen-challenged student can learn to make guacamole. And don't underestimate simple pleasures like a hike, picnic, stargazing or the supreme feel-good of volunteering. **CF**

WCC Transfer

Aiming High

Transfer students find space to soar at WCC

By Eleanor Shelton

Students who are driven to excel find many ways to do it at WCC. Most often it begins with a passion, whether it's writing or music, business or medicine. But not only are these students determined to get good grades, they're busy outside the classroom in academic clubs and student activities. Their two years at WCC are preparing them for university studies and life beyond that.

Rasheeda Augustine

Focused, busy and happy

If a beautiful smile, graceful demeanor and a ready laugh are what you want to see when you're greeted at your next hotel stay, then Rasheeda Augustine is about to embark on the right career for her.

Ann Arbor is a long way from her native Caribbean island home of Dominica. Two years ago Augustine's older sister received a scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Vocal Performance at the University of Michigan and Augustine decided to come along and continue her education as well.

Music runs in Augustine's family. Augustine's aunts and uncle formed a singing group called The Five Os (their last name is Olivacce) and her aunt is Dominica's official Lady of Song. While growing up, her family always incorporated music into their gatherings, making friends and guests feel welcome.

Perhaps that is why she's planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management when she transfers to Michigan State University next fall. Right now she's completing her associate's degree in Business at WCC to prepare for her next step.

"I listen to my sister practice, seeing her reach so far and achieving her goals one step at a time through her ups and downs and yet she perseveres. That gives me motivation to keep going," says Augustine.

And she has plenty of motivation. She is the Public and Media Relations officer for Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges; the vice president of the WCC chapter of the Business Professionals of America organization; and works in the New Student Orientation office 20 hours a week all while maintaining a 3.88 grade point average.

"I like Phi Theta Kappa because it celebrates my academic achievement and gives me service opportunities to give back to my community. Business Professionals of America lets me practice the business concepts I learn in class, and my job with New Student Orientation allows me to practice my organizational skills as well as earn some money," says Augustine.

"Being involved at WCC has made me feel more independent, empowered and responsible. I've learned how to manage my time and be organized."

With all that, it's a wonder that Augustine appears so calm. But don't let that fool you. She likes a challenge and enjoys the high stakes that a business professional faces.

"I like the competitiveness of business and creating something from scratch," says Augustine. "I also like the constant interaction with people and being on the go that the hospitality industry offers." CF

Brian Coburn

Student and journalist

When Brian Coburn decided to study journalism at WCC he'd already been working for the *Detroit Free Press* for four years. By then he knew that the newspaper business wasn't all glamour, and that reporters aren't all eccentric curmudgeons.

Coburn worked in an entry-level position in which he took calls from high school coaches and interviewed radio hosts after football and basketball games. Detailed and a bit tedious work by all standards, but his tenacity paid off when he was pegged to become a junior copy editor.

"Writing is one thing I'm good at," says Coburn. "But I also knew that at the *Free Press* there was only so far I was going to go without a degree."

Since 2007 Coburn has been writing for *The Washtenaw Voice*, the WCC student-run, biweekly newspaper, and he is now its managing editor. The job requires him to talk to students, faculty and staff, hone his time management skills, and in the process has helped develop his leadership ability.

He's not afraid to tackle sensitive issues such as racism on campus, and he feels as comfortable interviewing students as the college president. And being naturally inquisitive is a plus. He says, "I want to know everything about people when I meet them. I visualize things as a story, always thinking about various angles.

"This job has helped me feel more engaged with WCC because I interact with other students and I help make them feel part of a community—I care what they have to say. I also have a good rapport with the faculty and others I use as sources," says Coburn.

Next year Coburn plans to transfer to Wayne State University to study with Jack Lessenberry, journalism professor and columnist for several national papers. After graduation from WSU, Coburn would like to write feature and news stories for a national magazine, although he is aware that the industry is changing fast.

"Technology and news media are second nature to me," says Coburn. "We're in a massive transition period, and journalism will be re-invented. Young people entering journalism should be excited by all the possibilities the future holds." **CF**

Erika Gale

Helping others is what matters

"It's important to me that my career helps people. I would feel empty if I was just working for money," says Erika Gale.

At only 19, Gale already has a clear direction for her life. She plans to become a doctor and work for a non-governmental organization helping under served communities either in the United States or another country.

Gale's own family's story definitely has shaped her ambitions. Gale's mother is from Sweden and her father is from Romania. Her grandmother, the daughter of a missionary, grew up in China and her grandfather spent five years at a concentration camp in Romania.

Her parents' met and fell on love in Romania but her mother's Swedish family was forbidden to return by the communist government. Her parents were finally united after her father unsuccessfully attempted to be smuggled out and then petitioned repeatedly for permission to leave the country.

"Knowing what my parents had to do to be together fosters my own sense of character and strength. I know you have to work hard to get what you want," says Gale, who works hard to maintain her 3.96 grade point average.

As if keeping her grades high wasn't hard enough, Gale is also one of the founders of the WCC Student Health Career Club, which has given her a sense of accomplishment, has helped her feel comfortable with public speaking and has taught her not to take things so seriously.

"I worked hard to promote an event and only a few people showed up. Before I would have been upset but I know that I did the best I could. I organized another event and it was very well attended," says Gale.

Gale grew up in a household without television and has never missed it. Instead she focuses on reading, learning and spending time with her family. She hopes to attend Cornell University in the fall. She is shooting high right off the bat and she knows it's not going to get any easier; becoming a doctor will take eight years of higher education and then there are the residency years. All of which she is prepared for because she is ardent about her calling.

"I have to have a passion in life," says Gale. "I have the opportunity to go into a field where I can truly help people." **CF**

Around WCC

What a Deal!

WCC students benefit from low-cost AATA bus passes

At the beginning of Fall and Winter semesters, WCC parking lots overflow with students cruising for parking spots. But this January the parking crunch eased a little bit as hundreds of students took WCC up on its offer of $10 AATA bus passes. Not only can students use the passes to commute to classes, they're good for any trip anywhere on an AATA bus during the semester.

Each semester the passes will allow enrolled WCC students to travel anywhere on AATA routes. Given the overcrowded parking, the unpredictable cost of gas, the weak economy and the need to reduce carbon emission, these passes provide a real alternative to driving.

"This benefits both WCC and students," says WCC's Vice-President of Instruction Roger Palay. "It's a start to solving our parking problem. It also helps make education more affordable for students, by making it inexpensive to commute to the College and possibly even eliminating the expense of a car and gas for some students."

Gone in Sixty Seconds

WCC recreates Eleanor for WCSX charity raffle

Have you been dreaming of that lovely 1967 Ford Shelby Mustang GT500 Fastback named Eleanor ever since you saw the 2000 remake of *Gone in Sixty Seconds* with Nicholas Cage and Angelina Jolie?

Washtenaw Community College's Custom Cars & Concepts program has an opportunity for you to make it your own—for a very good price. In partnership with Detroit radio station WCSX, WCC Custom Cars & Concepts students will create a tribute to Eleanor to be raffled for charity in WCSX's *The Dream Machine*. Tickets are $15 each and proceeds will benefit regional charities.

WCSX will chronicle WCC students' progress creating this tribute vehicle throughout this elaborate build. The raffle for Eleanor kicked off at the Detroit Autorama March 6 and the drawing for the car will be at WCC's Cars on Campus Car Show Oct. 4, 2009.

Our Café is Your Career Center

Research all your options at CareerFocusCafé.com

Making career decisions can be confusing. What kind of job is right for you? How much education do you need? Where are the jobs these days and which careers are good bets?

The new CareerFocus Café is an online resource for students, job hunters and workers everywhere. We've brought together news and information from all over the Web to help you make career decisions, find jobs and get advice about the workplace. It's Answer Central for your career questions.

Are you planning to further your education?

CareerFocus Café can help you sort out your options and find the right college. With links to career aptitude tests, college and university programs and financial aid information, you can explore all the possibilities.

Are you looking for the perfect career path?

The Café is full of advice from experts, and links to career resources for exploring your interests and talents, identifying the best careers and getting started on a new career.

Are you looking for a new job?

At CareerFocus Café you'll find links to the best job sites both general and career-specific.

Find the new online companion to CareerFocus magazine at www.careerfocuscafe.com and explore these resources:

Career Clearinghouse - Dig into a growing list of links to career resources such as job opportunities, salary information, career descriptions, quizzes to test your interests and aptitude, career videos and more.

Work with Me - Get answers to your career questions and dilemmas from our experts.

Career News - Get the latest scoop on job trends and workplace strategies.

Bookshelf - Review the latest career and job hunting books.

Videos - See what authors and experts have to say about the world of work.

College Connection - Find community colleges to get you started on a new career. CF

Right Here in Your Backyard

For over 40 years WCC has been providing a college education to thousands—make that millions—of students in Washtenaw County. High quality, affordable, close to home college education.

In these turbulent economic times WCC continues to provide training for displaced workers, occupational training for trade and technical jobs, and an affordable academic foundation for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges.

WCC's 13 Schools of Study provide students with options in numerous career fields. Thinking about a career in business? The School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies has programs in accounting, office systems business and entrepreneurship. Interested in a career in art or design? WCC's School of Visual Arts integrates animation, video graphic design and photography.

For students planning on a four-year degree, WCC's Transfer and University Parallel Programs provide a solid two-year start on a bachelor's degree. Transfer students who haven't decided on a career path yet can fulfill their general education requirements at WCC before moving on to four-year school to concentrate on a major. And students who've already decided on a career path can build a foundation of specific transfer courses in diverse fields such as technical communications, law enforcement and engineering.

Look over the full range of options in this WCC Schools listing to find an associate degree or transfer program that fits your talents and interests.

To find out more about how to prepare for your future at WCC call 734-973-3543 or visit our Web site at www.wccnet.edu **CF**

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

Whether your interest is in robotics, manufacturing or automation, the programs in the School of Advanced Manufacturing Systems will fit your needs. Maintain and troubleshoot the machines that make commercial goods by specializing in one or more aspects of the machining industry. Develop entry level or advanced skills in electronics, automation, industrial computing, fluid power, numerical controls or welding. Advanced specialization is also available in some of these areas.

National Median Salaries

Numerical Tool and Process Control Programmer - $44,810*

Automation

Are you looking for a career as a hydraulic technician, in robotics or an introduction to manufacturing engineering? Consider the field of Automation.

Automation Technology Certificate

Fluid Power Certificate

Automation Technology Associate in Applied Science

Electronics

Specialize in industrial electricity/electronics or computerized systems and programmable logic controllers. The field of Electronics is open to you.

Computer Systems Technology Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology II Advanced Certificate

Machine Tool

Learn about machining operations through the production of parts using WCC's extensive machine tool laboratory.

Machine Tool Technology Certificate

Manufacturing

Develop skills needed to be a numerical control operator or utilize your imagination in the field of manufacturing. Innovation and lean manufacturing are important skills in the field of manufacturing.

Advanced Manufacturing Certificate

Numerical Control Programming Certificate

Other Options

Welding - See School of Construction Technology

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF APPRENTICESHIP STUDIES

Find a trade-related associate's degree program that builds on your unique set of skills while giving you the knowledge and skills needed to move into organizational leadership.

Apprenticeship Studies

Individualized programs that utilize earned certificates, apprenticeships and trade-related credits tailored to the needs of the student. The Occupational Studies degree offers the flexibility to combine certain certificate programs with general education courses and electives to develop an individualized Associate in Applied Science degree.

Apprentice Completion Certificate

Journeyman Industrial Associate in Applied Science

Occupational Studies Associate in Applied Science

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada

These programs are restricted to members of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

Construction Supervision Certificate

Construction Supervision Associate in Applied Science

Construction Supervision Associate in Science

Industrial Training Associate in Applied Science

Industrial Training Associate in Science

**From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **From* Salary.com. *Salaries are representative of earnings as of June 2008. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF AUTOMOTIVE AND MOTORCYCLE TECHNOLOGY

If you are looking for the best technical training in the automotive or motorcycle fields, WCC's School of Automotive and Motorcycle Technology is the place for you. Whether your focus is finding employment as a technician, learning about performance or creating a custom look, our intermediate and advanced certificate programs as well as associate's degrees will enhance your personal and professional qualifications. These programs offer the perfect blend of classroom and hands-on education not available in any other educational setting.

National Median Salaries

Automotive Body and Related Repairers - $38,253*

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics - $36,480*

Motorcycle Mechanic - $32,210*

Auto Body Repair

These certificates prepare the student for various positions in the auto body repair industry.

Auto Body Repair Certificate

Collision Repair Refinish Technician Advanced Certificate

Collision Repair Technician Advanced Certificate

Automotive Services

The automotive certificates prepare the student for work as an automotive technician, diagnosing and repairing malfunctions in automobile systems.

Automotive Mechanics Certificate

Automotive Technician Advanced Certificate

See the Automotive Technologies Video
wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Custom Cars & Concepts

Develop advanced skills in the customization of the auto body through the completion of these advanced certificates.

Custom Auto Body Technician Advanced Certificate

Custom Fabrication & Chassis Design Advanced Certificate

Motorcycle Service Technician

Prepare for a career as a motorcycle mechanic or build upon skills already developed.

Motorcycle Service Technology I Certificate

Motorcycle Service Technology II Advanced Certificate

Other Options:

Welding - See School of Construction Technology
Occupational Studies - See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

Learn the fundamentals you will need to become a business leader or entrepreneur. These programs help you develop entry-level skills in various aspects of business. Whether your goal is to make your place in an existing industry or branch out on your own, these programs can provide the foundation for success.

National Median Salaries

Sales Representative - $57,480*

Employment, Recruitment and Placement Specialist - $52,710*

Food Service Manager - $48,660*

First Line Supervisor/ Manager of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers - $59.360*

First Line Supervisor/Manager of Mechanics, Installers, Repairers - $57,400*

Executive Secretary or Administrative Assistant - $40,700*

Medical Secretary - $30,050*

Entrepreneurship

Learn how to recognize market opportunities and plan a small business through completion of this certificate program.

Entrepreneurship Certificate

Business

Choose one or more areas in the field of business as you prepare for your future.

Business Sales and Marketing Certificate

Human Resource Management Certificate

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate

Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science

Accounting

Accounting and tax services, CPA firms and small businesses need employees with accounting skills. These programs can provide the skills needed for entry-level positions.

Accounting Certificate

Accounting Associate in Applied Science

Business Office Systems

Whether you are just starting out in an office or advancing to a high-level administrative or executive assistant position, these programs can help you achieve your goals.

Administrative Assistant I Certificate

Computer Software Applications Certificate

Medical Office Assistant Certificate

Administrative Assistant II Advanced Certificate

Administrative Assistant Technology Associate in Applied Science

Other Options

Business Associate in Art - See Transfer and University Parallel Programs
Occupational Studies - See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS

If you yearn to be involved in nurturing the next generation of young people, the School of Child Care Professionals is the place to begin. Gain the knowledge and skills required for state licensing and national childcare credentials while enjoying the personal experience of working directly with children.

National Median Salaries

Preschool Teacher - $25,800*

Child Care Professionals

Whether you are looking to care for children in a home-based center or a professional or school-based setting, these programs can prepare you for an entry-level position as a childcare professional.

Child Development Certificate

Child Care and Education Advanced Certificate

Child Care Professional Associate in Applied Science

**From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **From Salary.com. Salaries are representative of earnings as of June 2008. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Become part of the growing global community of skilled trades professionals or skilled trades managers. Design, plan, construct and complete structures for your home or for your career. You can earn a certificate or degree in Residential Construction, Construction Management or Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. These programs offer the perfect blend of classroom education and hands-on training. At the Henry S. Landau Design and Construction Training Center, you will be taught construction skills from the ground up. You can learn classic skills such as woodworking or modern techniques needed to maintain or improve your own structure. On the main campus, the HVAC program offers a wide range of training to equip high-end technicians with the knowledge and skills needed for successful entry into the field.

National Median Salaries

Construction Manager - $85,830*

Carpenter - 41,260*

Surveying and Mapping Technician - $35,900*

Architectural and Civil Drafter - $45,280*

Electrical and Electronic Drafter - $51,710*

Mechanical Drafter I - $46,690*

Drafter, other - $47,340*

Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic - $40,630*

Welder, Cutter, Solderer or Brazer - $33,960*

Construction Management

Prepare for work in the construction management or property maintenance industries through the completion of these programs.

Commercial Property Maintenance Technology Advanced Certificate

Construction Management Associate in Art

Drafting and Surveying

These programs focus on the designing and planning careers needed throughout the construction industry.

Computer-Aided Drafting Certificate

Residential Planning and Estimating Certificate

Surveying Assistant Certificate

Computer-Aided Drafting Advanced Certificate

Residential Design Advanced Certificate

Architectural Technology Associate in Applied Science

Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Associate in Applied Science

Interior Design Associate in Applied Science

HVACR

Whether you are working on residential or commercial equipment, these programs prepare you for a career in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration industry.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Residential Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Commercial Advanced Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industrial Advanced Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Associate in Applied Science

Residential Construction

If you want to learn basic construction, prepare to take the Michigan Builder's License exam or are considering starting a construction business, this is the place to start.

Residential Construction I Certificate

Cabinetmaking/Millwork Systems Technology Advanced Certificate

Residential Construction II Advanced Certificate

Residential Construction Associate in Science

See the Residential Construction Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Welding and Fabrication

Learn skills from beginning welding to advanced fabrication for a career as a welding maintenance mechanic.

Welding Certificate

Welding Mechanics Advanced Certificate

Welding Associate in Applied Science

See the Welding Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Other Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate - See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science - See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Students develop the skills and knowledge necessary for work in law enforcement and criminal justice. Completion of the Police Academy Certificate prepares the student to take the exam necessary for a career as a police officer.

National Median Salaries

Police and Sheriff Patrol Officer - $50,670*

Correctional Officer - $39,970*

Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement

The programs prepare the student for careers as a police officer or in criminal justice.

Police Academy Certificate

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Associate in Applied Science

Other Options

Criminal Justice Associate in Art - See Transfer and University Parallel Programs

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Find your passion in food, friends and elegant surroundings. Develop skills for an entry-level position in restaurant, hospitality or institutional settings. Whether your interests lie in pastry and wedding cakes, food preparation and marketing or management of food service, these are the programs for you.

National Median Salaries

Food Service Manager - $48,660*

Chef or Head Cook - $40,700*

Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management

Develop the skills necessary for a career in the hospitality industry.

Baking and Pastry Certificate

Culinary Arts Certificate

Hospitality Management Certificate

Culinary and Hospitality Management Associate in Applied Science

See the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Other Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate - See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science - See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Occupational Studies - See School of Apprenticeship Studies

**From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **From* Salary.com. *Salaries are representative of earnings as of June 2008. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The School of Applied Information Technology gathers the diverse areas that make up the computer technology of today. From basic programming languages to systems development through networking, these programs provide the core of information technology. Develop skills in computer forensics or learn how to run a successful e-business. The growing field of applied information technology is waiting for you.

National Median Salaries

Web Software Developer - The middle 50 percent earn between $57,573 and $80,000**

Web Designer - The middle 50 percent earn between $53,337 and $70,662**

Network Planning Analyst I - The middle 50 percent earn between $43,632 and $58,008**

Network Security Systems Manager - The middle 50 percent earn between $61,511 and $101,321**

Computer Programer - $72,010**

Java Developer - The middle 50 percent earn between 63,844 and $84,717*

Computer Systems Analyst - $75,890*

Network and Computer Systems Administrators - $67,850*

Computer and Information Scientist, Research - $100,640*

Internet Professional

Join the Web development industry through the completion of these certificates and degree.

Web Technology Certificate

Web Application Developer Advanced Certificate

Web Graphic Design Advanced Certificate

Internet Professional Associate in Applied Science

Networking

Develop and manage computer networks as a network administrator/engineer.

Computer Networking Academy I Advanced Certificate

Computer Networking Operating Systems I Advanced Certificate

Computer Networking Associate in Applied Science

Computer Networking Academy II Post Associate Certificate

Programming

Learn the foundation of computer programming or specialize in a programming language through these programs.

Foundations of Computer Programming Certificate

.Net Programming

Java Developer Advanced Certificate

Object-Oriented Programming with C++ Advanced Certificate

Computer Programming Associate in Applied Science

Computer Security and Forensics

Become part of the growing field of computer system security and forensics.

Information Assurance Certificate

Computer Forensics Advanced Certificate

Network Security Advanced Certificate

Computer Forensics Associate in Applied Science

Computer Systems Security Associate in Applied Science

See the Computer Security Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Systems Development and Administration

Develop and manage computer systems and using universal operating systems.

Linux/Unix Systems I Certificate

Linux/Unix Systems II Advanced Certificate

Web Database Developer Advanced Certificate

Microcomputer System Support Associate in Applied Science

Other Options

Computer Systems Technology Certificate - See School of Advanced Manufacturing Systems

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Students learn basic creative and performance skills in music, drama and dance and how they are applied in a professional setting. Whether you are exploring your own talents, coordinating the talents of others, or practicing the techniques you will need to make a living at your craft, the School of Music and Performing Arts provides the fundamentals you need.

National Median Salaries

Musician or Singer - $27.27/hr*

Sound Engineering Technician - $54,220*

Music and Performing Arts

Develop the skills for a career in music performance, engineering or production through these certificate programs.

Music Performance Certificate

Music Production/Engineering Certificate

See the Music Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Find your place in the growing field of health care. Whether your interest lies in the traditional field of nursing or the new program in physical therapist assistant, the School of Nursing and Health Sciences provides a variety programs designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in dental assisting, pharmacy technology, radiography, physical therapist assistant, nursing assistant or professional nursing.

National Median Salaries

Dental Assistant - $32,280*

Nursing Aide, Orderly or Attendant - $23,920*

Registered Nurse - $62,480*

Pharmacy Aide - $21,120*

Physical Therapist Assistant - $44,340*

Radiologic Technologist and Technician - $51,150*

Dental Assisting

Prepare for a career as a certified dental assistant through the completion of this program.

Dental Assisting Certificate

Health Care Foundations

Uncertain of your specific career path in the field of health care? This certificate program can provide the essential basic skills to prepare for a specialized program.

Health Care Foundations Certificate

Nursing

Prepare for a career in a variety of health care settings through this certificate and associate in applied science degree program.

Nursing Assistant Skills Training Certificate of Completion

Nursing Transfer Associate in Applied Science

Registered Nursing Associate in Applied Science

Pharmacy Technology

Work with a professional pharmacist to meet the medication and customer service needs of individuals in a variety of settings.

Pharmacy Technology Certificate

Physical Therapist Assistant

Work with a physical therapist to provide selected services to patients with a wide variety of conditions.

Physical Therapist Assistant Associate in Applied Science

Radiography

Prepare for a career as a radiographer, operating various medical imaging equipment.

Radiography Associate in Applied Science

Other Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate - See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies
Occupational Studies - See School of Apprenticeship Studies

**From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **From Salary.com. Salaries are representative of earnings as of June 2008. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

The eyes say it all in the School of Visual Arts. From the classics of photography and graphic design to the developing fields of digital video and 3-D animation, students can learn a variety of skills leading to multiple career options.

National Median Salaries

Cartoonist/Animator - The middle 50 percent earn between $43,207 and $58,782**

Television, Video or Motion Picture Camera Operator - $46,570*

Film and Video Editor - $61,180

Graphic Designer - $45,340*

Art Director - $83,230*

Multimedia Artist and Animator - $61,010*

Photographer - $34,010*

3-D Animation

Learn the basics of three dimensional animation used in videos, games and on the Web. This degree will prepare you for an entry-level position in digital modeling and animation.

3-D Animation Associate in Applied Science

Digital Video

Complete these programs to learn how to create digitized video productions for the Web and other presentation forms.

Digital Video Film Production Certificate

Digital Video Production Associate in Art

Graphic Design

From the foundations of visual communication through production techniques, this field allows you to utilize your creative and artistic abilities.

Graphic Design Certificate

Graphic Design Associate in Applied Science

Photography

Develop skills in composition, processing and presentation needed for a satisfying career in professional photography or as a means of personal expression.

Photographic Imaging Certificate

Photographic Technology Associate in Applied Science

See the Photography Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Other Options

Interior Design Associate in Applied Science - See School of Construction Technology

Washtenaw Community College | TRANSFER AND UNIVERSITY PARALLEL PROGRAMS

If your goal is to continue your education toward a baccalaureate degree, then the Transfer and University Parallel programs is the track for you. Complete the first two years of study in a supportive environment with small classes and personal attention.

National Median Salaries

Accountant or Auditor - $63,180

Advertising and Promotions Manager - $73,060*

Marketing Manager - $98,720*

Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary School Teacher - from $43,580 to $48,690*

Engineer - from $66,030 to $77,920*

Physician or Surgeon - from $132,953 to $259,948*

Technical Writer - $58,050*

Reporters and Correspondents - $33,470 *

Social Worker - $37,480

Business

Designed for students who intend to transfer into a four-year school program in business.

Business Associate in Art

Communication

Prepare to transfer to a four-year school or begin a career in radio and/or other forms of broadcast arts.

Broadcast Arts Associate in Art

Education

These programs offer the first two years of instruction required to become a certified teacher in the state of Michigan.

Elementary Education Associate in Art

Secondary Education Associate in Art

Law and Law Enforcement

Considering a career in police work, probation or juvenile criminal justice? This program prepares you for further study in these specialized fields.

Criminal Justice Associate in Art

Liberal Arts Transfer

This program of study can be individualized to meet your needs or the requirements of the transfer college or university.

Liberal Arts Transfer Associate in Art

Exercise Science

This program prepares the student for further study in areas of exercise science.

Exercise Science Associate in Science

Math and Computer Science

This program prepares the student for further study in areas of math and computer science.

Math and Science - Math or Computer Science Concentration Associate in Science

Pre-Engineering/Physics

Students utilize this program in preparation for a degree in engineering or physics.

Math and Science - Pre-Engineering Concentration Associate in Science

Pre-Medicine

If your goal is in the field of medicine or medical research, these programs will prepare you to transfer into a baccalaureate degree program.

Math and Science - Biology/Pre-Medicine Concentration Associate in Science

Math and Science - Chemistry/Pre-Medicine Concentration Associate in Science

Professional Writing

Whether your goal is in journalism or technical writing, these programs provide a foundation for beginning writing or to undertake advanced studies at a four-year institution.

Technical Writing Certificate

Journalism Associate in Art

Technical Writing Associate in Art

Technical Writing Associate in Science

Continued

**From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **From* Salary.com. *Salaries are representative of earnings as of June 2008. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.*

Washtenaw Community College | TRANSFER AND UNIVERSITY PARALLEL PROGRAMS

Continued

Social Work

This program prepares you to transfer to a bachelor's degree program in social work.

Human Services Associate in Art

What is the National Median Salary?

CareerFocus uses salary information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and *Salary.com* unless noted otherwise. These figures represent the national midpoint earnings for each job description. This means that half the U.S. employees surveyed in a particular occupation earn less than this figure and half earn more.

Individual salaries vary based on the region, the size of the employer and the employee's education, experience and skill level. You can research your potential salary at *Salary.com*, *The Occupational Outlook Handbook* at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site (*www.bls.gov*) or by checking with professional organizations and local employers.

Washtenaw Community College ADA/EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Compliance Statements

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, height, weight, marital status or veteran status in provision of its educational programs and services or in employment opportunities and benefits. WCC is committed to compliance in all of its activities and services with the requirements of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Act 453, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Public Act 220, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Inquiries concerning programs and services under Title IX and Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act should be directed to the Office of the Associate Vice President of Student Services, Room SC 275A, Student Center Building, 734-973-3536. Inquiries regarding compliance in employment should be directed to the College Affirmative Action Officer in the Office of Human Resource Management, Room 120, Business Education Building, 734-973-3497. Inquiries concerning access to facilities should be directed to the Director of Plant Operations, Plant Operations Building, 734-677-5300.

Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 is a federal law that mandates the disclosure by all institutions of higher education of the rates of graduation, the number of incidents of certain criminal offenses, and the default rate for student loans. The law also mandates that information be provided on the type of security provided on campus, the pertinent policies regarding security on campus, and policies that record and deal with alcohol and drug abuse. Washtenaw Community College is in full compliance with these provisions and provides the required information annually through college publications. Inquiries concerning the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act should be directed to Washtenaw Community College, Office of the Associate Vice President of Student Services, Room SC 275A, Student Center Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (telephone 734-973-3536).

WCC is a smoke-free campus.

WCC SPRING/SUMMER 2009

Registration Starts March 25

for new students.
Classes start May 8, 29 & June 17

Don't Get Dropped!

Pay by April 16 to keep your seat

Pay the day of registration after April 16

WCC is now offering more

WEEKEND CLASSES

to fit your schedule

Find Saturday (Sa) and Sunday (Su) classes online at www.wccnet.edu

Washtenaw Community College

TORTOISE AND HARE

Running & Fitness Centers

Shoes, Apparel, Accessories and Personal Service

Three locations:

209 E. Liberty St.
769-9510

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623-9640

4800 E. Huron River Dr.
(WCC Fitness Center)
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Bring in this ad for 20% OFF non-sale items

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TIME

buy online and get
FIRST DIBS
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buy your textbooks early at
www.whywaitforbooks.com
and save yourself the hassle

your school.
your bookstore.
www.bncollege.com
WCC Bookstore

LIVE LIFE TO THE FITTEST

The Health & Fitness Center at Washtenaw Community College

You'll find a 75,000 sq. ft. facility with open spaces and spectacular views.

It's beautiful. It's friendly. It's a great place to get healthy and fit.

- Health and fitness classes; including yoga, Pilates and spinning
- Personalized training and nutritional counseling
- A walking/jogging track
- Free weights, resistance and cardiovascular training equipment
- A large lap pool and a warm therapeutic pool with wheelchair access
- Spacious locker rooms with whirlpools, steam, sauna and massage
- Child care (for a small fee)
- Tortoise & Hare Running and Fitness store
- Free parking ...and much more!

For more information, or to join, call (734) 975-9950 or visit www.wccfitness.org

The Health & Fitness Center
AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Focus on Textbooks (but spend less $!)

Shop at Campus Book and Supply

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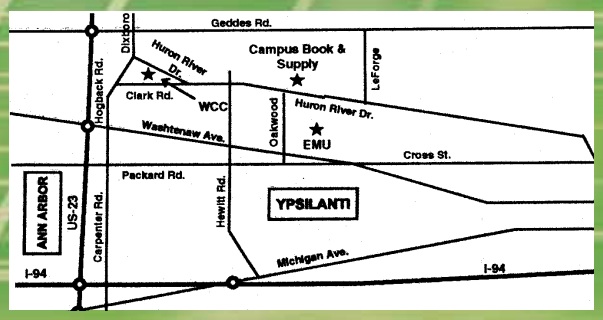

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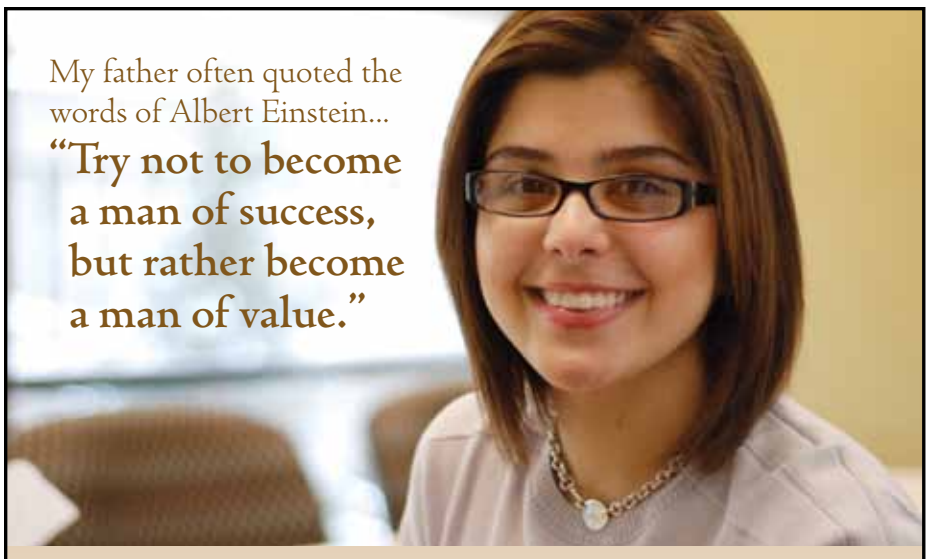

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